

Message Text

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15

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 AEC-11 OMB-01 DRC-01 AECE-00 /143 W

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P R 230720Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2054

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

SECDEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

XOMSIXTHFLT

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA

COMSEVENTHFLT YOKOSUKA JA

COMSUBGRUSEVEN YOKOSUKA JA

COMUSJAPAN FUCH JA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT: RESUMPTION OF NPW VISITS TO JAPAN

REF: TOKYO 6559 DTG 200850Z MAY 74

SUMMARY: "YOMIURI" MAY 23 FRONT-PAGED STORY TO EFFECT THAT GOJ IS
FIRMING UP DECISION TO MAKE POSSIBLE EARLY RESUMPTION OF SSN
VISITS TO JAPAN IN VIEW OF STRONG PRESSURE FROM USG, AND VIRTUAL
COMPLETION OF TEST ANALYSES. STORY SAID FIRST SSN VISIT COULD
TAKE PLACE AS EARLY AS FIRST HALF OF JUNE. GOJ HAS
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PROVIDED US WITH Q'S AND A'S. WE SEE NO PROBLEMS WITH

THEM AND PLAN TO BASE OUR REPLIES ON THEM. END SUMMARY

1. "YOMIURI" MAY 23 SAID THAT GOJ IS FIRING UP ITS DECISION TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE EARLY RESUMPTION OF SSN VISITS TO JAPAN. STORY SAID THAT NEWLY ESTABLISHED "JAPAN ANALYSIS CENTER", WHICH WILL DO LABORATORY WORK CONNECTED WITH MONITORING PROGRAM, WILL NOT BE COMPLETELY READY FOR OPERATION UNTIL JULY. HOWEVER, THE STORY SAID, GOJ HAS DECIDED TO ACCEPT RESUMPTION OF SSN CALLS BECAUSE OF STRONG US PRESSURE AND BECAUSE TRIAL ANALYSIS PROGRAM BEGUN IN FEBRUARY WILL BE COMPLETED SOON. ARTICLE SAID FIRST SSN VISIT IN ABOUT SIX MONTHS MAY OCCUR AS EARLY AS SOME TIME IN THE FIRST HALF OF JUNE.

2. STORY SAID THAT ACCORDING TO (AN EARLIER) FONOFF EXPLANATION, THERE IS NO PROBLEM WITH REGARD TO SAFETY OF SSN PORTCALLS. THIS IS CONFIRMED BY RADIOACTIVITY MONITORING CONDUCTED BY MONITORING POSTS DURING SHIP VISITS AND ANALYSES OF WATER SAMPLES. ANALYSIS OF MUD SAMPLES, WHICH CAUSED PROBLEMS OF LAST FEW MONTHS, IS SIMPLY TO DOUBLE-CHECK RESULTS OF WATER ANALYSES.

3. "YOMIURI" ARTICLE SAID OPPOSITION PARTIES CAN BE EXPECTED TO RAISE SERIOUS OPPOSITION TO GOJ ACCEPTANCE OF SSN CALLS, SINCE MONITORING PROCEDURES HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETED, AND ANALYTICAL LABORATORY WILL NOT BE IN FULL OPERATION UNTIL SOMETIME IN JULY.

4. FONOFF HAS PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH FOLLOWING Q'S AND A'S IN RESPONSE "YOMIURI" STORY:

Q. ACCORDING TO TOKYO PRESS MAY 23, SSN'S WILL RESUME VISITS TO JAPAN NEXT MONTH BEFORE COMPLETION OF RADIOACTIVITY MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS. IS THIS TRUE?

A. GOJ IS MAINTAINING CLOSE CONTACT WITH USG AND PROVIDING IT WITH PROGRESS REPORTS ON ANALYSIS OF RADIOACTIVITY MONITORING RESULTS NOW BEING CONDUCTED BY THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY (STA). USG IS, THEREFORE, TAKING THESE REPORTS INTO ACCOUNT IN PLANNING SSN VISITS, INCLUDING TIMING OF SUCH VISITS.
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Q. WHEN WILL THE STA COMPLETE ITS ANALYSIS OF RADIOACTIVITY MONITORING RESULTS AND RELATED MATTERS?

A. WE EXPECT RESULTS OF ANALYSIS PROGRAM BEING PURSUED VIGOROUSLY BY STA TO BECOME CLEAR IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE.

5. WE SEE NO PROBLEMS WITH THESE Q'S AND A'S, AND PLAN TO

BASE OUR REPLIES ON THEM.

6. COMMENT: FONOFF TOLD EMBASSY THAT "YOMIURI" STORY APPEARS TO BE MATERIAL PIECED TOGETHER FROM EXISTING INFORMATION AND NOT BASED ON PRESS LEAK, AND THAT IT WILL BE USEFUL IN SOFTENING IMPACT OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF FIRST SSN VISIT. EMBASSY BELIEVES OPPOSITION GROUPS WILL PROBABLY MOUNT SUBSTANTIAL DEMONSTRATION AT PORT FOR THAT VISIT, BUT THAT DEMONSTRATIONS WILL DWINDLE TO USUAL MODEST SIZE DURING SUBSEQUENT VISITS.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MONITORING, MILITARY VISITS, NAVAL SHIPS, PORT FACILITIES, NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS, RADIOACTIVE WASTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO06725
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740128-0991
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740522/aaaaaszo.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TOKYO 6559 DTG 200850Z MAY 74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <04 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESUMPTION OF NPW VISITS TO JAPAN
TAGS: MARR, JA, US
To: STATE ROME
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005